

FCC, July 11, 2013

I mentor women married to inmates. I also am married to an inmate and am a prison reform activist. We all know the stats of those in prison (2.4 million) -- that most are undereducated and very poor with family that is in the bottom poverty bracket of the US. Do you really think all these family members have access to a computer like myself or have social media accounts to spread the word of the hearing today? No, I would say a huge majority of them are working 2 and 3 jobs to put food on the table and do not have the funds to allow phone calls to their loved ones. My husband's mother doesn't speak English, does not have a computer or a cell phone, and she rarely gets to talk to her son. I know many of the women I mentor live in extreme poverty just to spend the money to talk to their spouses and have their children talk to them a few minutes a week. This is atrocious. This is wrong. I speak on behalf of all those that have no voice in this hearing. It's time to do the right thing for society as a whole and for the families affected by Mass Incarceration. Bring the phone rates down so that we can bond and love those inside prison so we can help with rehabilitation where the system fails. Meaningful connections change lives and bring hope in a dark place set up for failure. May God have mercy on the souls that decide the fate of these outrageous phone costs if they decide to allow these horrible companies to continue to rape what little money we have left.

I pay 50.00 a week to communicate with him and it's a great hardship. That 20 minutes has changed his life and the prison benefits from that, as would many more benefit if the rates were fair.

I posted this same message on your Facebook page and after doing so more than 40 people responded with the same hardship. However, I am officially submitting this for the millions who do not have on-line access or the skills to do what I'm doing. I am the voice for those that have no voice.

Sincerely,

Deborah Munson-Cardenas

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